GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1096
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Optical Fibre Network
Udhayakumar Shri M.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen 2.5 lakh village panchayats through optical fibre network which was started in 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the optical fibre network is moving at snail"s speed at many places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for completion of the same in a time bound basis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Government had approved National Optical Fibre Network Project (NOFN) on 25.10.2011 to extend optical fibre connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country for providing Broadband connectivity. The project was renamed as BharatNet in 2016 and a modified strategy has been approved by the Telecom Commission on 14.12.2016 to implement it in three phases:-
Phase-I − 1,00,000 GPs under implementation, being executed by 3 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), targeted to be completed by March, 2017.
Phase-II − Balance 1,50,000 GPs using an optimal mix of underground/aerial optical fibre cable, radio and satellite, to be executed by 3 CPSEs and State Governments through their Discoms or any other agency, targeted to be completed by December, 2018.
Phase-III - Futuristic network with ring topology between Districts and Blocks and Blocks and GPs is targeted to be completed by 2023.

Status Progress of BharatNet phase-1 as on 29.01.2017 is as under:-

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Items Achievement
Pipe Laid(Kms) 1,98,064
Pipe Laid (GPs) 84,575
Optical Fibre Cable pulled(Kms) 1,72,257
Optical Fibre Cable pulled(GPs) 76,089
GPs provided with connectivity 16,305
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(c) & (d): Several measures have been taken for speedy implementation of the project. As a result, the progress of the implementation has increased and the long pending issues have been resolved. Details are as under:-
(i) Work front for Phase-I has been increased by 25,859 GPs. CPSEs have invited tenders for this additional work front.
(ii) Procurement related initiatives :
1. In line with the current strategy of decentralized procurement and to have multiple sources of supplies, tender for procurement of 40,000 km of OFC has been finalized by BSNL. Procurement of 10,000 Km of OFC is being done by RailTel and around 6,000 Km of OFC by PGCIL. Further, OFC procurement has been done in OFC deficit States from existing supplier of BBNL.
2. BBNL Tender for procurement of GPON equipment has been finalized and purchase orders have been issued to 3 bidders.
3. Accessories have been ordered from BSNL Telecom Factory.
4. Authorization for procurement for Fibre Termination Boxes, Splitters has been made to the concerned CPSE (BSNL, RailTel and PGCIL).
(iii) Three implementing CPSEs have been asked to increase implementation teams in the field.
(iv) The proposal for Operation & Maintenance arrangement finalized between BBNL & BSNL has been approved by DoT.
(v) Committees have been set up at various levels for Monitoring the progress and resolution of issues as detailed below :
1. Empowered Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary, DOT
2. Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF for resolution of inter agency implementation matters.
3. Technical Standing Committee under Member (T) for deciding the technology related issues.

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